

like chirrup of Himalayan Ibex or the sneeze of Markhor when alarmed.

ROBERTS COTTON ASSOCIATES LTD.,  
KHANEWAL,  
WEST PAKISTAN,  
February 20, 1967.

T. J. ROBERTS

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#### 4. REOCCURRENCE OF THE WHITEFRONTED SHEARWATER (*PROCELLARIA LEUCOMELAENA* TEMMINCK) IN INDO-CEYLONESE WATERS

While working upon a new checklist of Ceylon Birds, I have noticed that Dr. Dillon S. Ripley, in his excellent SYNOPSIS OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN mentions only a single record of the occurrence of the Whitefronted Shearwater (*Procellaria leucomelaena* Temminck) in the Indian Ocean.—viz.. a bird obtained off Ceylon in 1884. It seems advisable, therefore, to place on record a more recent occurrence of the species in Indo-Ceylonese waters.

Early in 1957, when I returned to Ceylon from the Maldive Islands, I met Mr. Grisenthwaite, who had already collected a number of interesting birds at sea off the western coasts of Ceylon. From him, I received a large Shearwater which proved to be *Procellaria leucomelaena* Temminck. I brought the specimen to England with me and donated it to the National Collection, at the South Kensington Museum where it now carries the number 957.16.98.

The data labels, written from information supplied by Mr. Grisenthwaite, show that this bird was taken, about dawn, on 6th December 1956, by Mr. G. N. Grisenthwaite aboard the Trawler 'Braconglen' when the ship was approximately 22 miles W. SW. of Muttum Light on the south Indian coast, or approximately 22 miles N.W. of Cape Comorin. The bird was a male in sub-adult plumage. The prevailing weather conditions, at the time of capture, were:

Wind moderate, easterly; bright sun later. Bird was flying east and appeared to be tired as it dropped exhausted on the ship.

This Shearwater appears to be an extremely rare vagrant to the Indian Ocean, its normal range being in the northern Pacific.

'STORTH,'

MANOR WAY,  
ALDWICK BAY,  
BOGNOR REGIS, U. K.,  
January 25, 1967.

W. W. A. PHILLIPS

##### 5. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE GREAT WHITEBELLIED HERON *ARDEA INSIGNIS* HUME IN BIHAR

On 1 March 1964 at 5 p.m. I saw five Great Whitebellied Herons *Ardea insignis* Hume near Jamalpur, Darbhanga District, feeding in a water-logged, harvested rice field. They did not heed my close approach to about 30 ft. After taking notes I tried to get still nearer when two of them rose silently only to settle a little farther ahead. They were rather confiding. Another bird was seen on 5 March, soaring at a height of about 200 ft. over a channel of the Kosi River at Nirmali, Saharsa District. On 10 March two more birds were observed sitting on a leafless tree near Beluva, 6 miles north-east of Birpur, close to the India-Nepal border. The identification is based on the field notes, which were later checked with the specimens in the Society's Research collections. This grand heron can easily be identified in the field by its great size (bigger than the Painted Stork), long ashy-grey nuchal crest, and the grey upper parts contrasting with the white under parts. In flight the white axillaries are confirmatory.

Ripley (1961) gives the range of *Ardea insignis* (= *Ardea imperialis*) thus: 'From the Nepal and Sikkim terai east along the Himalayan foothills through north-east Assam, south to East Pakistan and Arakan and east to northern Burma'. Biswas (1960) did not come across this bird in Nepal.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,  
HORNBILL HOUSE,  
BOMBAY, 1-BR.,  
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